

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on Page 25, lines 6 - 17 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

- - As has been demonstrated, the present invention discloses advantageous techniques which provide a new paradigm for e-mail and calendaring, whereby message and event creators have more control over how receivers handle those messages and events. While prior art systems may force senders to send multiple follow-up messages, attempting to determine the status of a previously-sent message, the disclosed techniques automate the sending of status information (and effectively force the recipient to provide this updated status). The disclosed techniques help to ensure that messages will be viewed in a timely manner, according to the sender's representation of the time-sensitivity of the message. Prioritization of incoming messages moves from being under complete control of recipients, as is the situation in the prior art, to giving senders some control as well. As a result of these improvements, communication between senders and receivers may become more effective. Furthermore, it will be obvious how the disclosed techniques may be adapted to other types of messaging systems, ~~include~~ including voice mail, instant messaging, etc.

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